

HISTORICAL SECTION

Sandra L. Snider - Assoc. Curator

Condition of Buildings:1. Queen Anne Cottage:

- a. Burglar alarm system installed by Williams Alarm Co. of Arcadia in August, 1982. The system operates by a key alarm box in the service closet in the Library.
- b. All Cottage draperies were removed, cleaned and re-installed by Eldon Drapery Cleaners of Covina (removed in July, 1982; returned after interior painting in October, 1982). Cost of cleaning was \$625.00. Four pair of brass tie-backs for the drapes were purchased from Eldon Drapery at a cost of \$40.00. All costs paid by the California Arboretum Foundation Historical Section fund.
- c. Cottage interior was re-painted in new color schemes in October, 1982, by contractor Anthony Triarsi of Anthony Decorators. Cost was \$11,895. Included in the price was washing and oiling of all interior structural woodwork, sanding and varnishing of all interior floors. The new color scheme was provided by designer Foster Meagher whose services were paid for by the National Paint and Coatings Assoc. Foundation Board member Bill Peters arranged the donation of Mr. Meagher's services through the National association.
- d. Tile entry hall floor, marble fireplace mantels were cleaned and sealed by Anthony Triarsi and three mirrors were re-gilded at a cost of \$500. Paid for by Calif. Arboretum Foundation, Historical Section fund.
- e. New globular porch light fixtures were purchased from Maxwell Electric in July, 1982, by the County to enhance the porch appearance.
- f. A porch railing was constructed by County employees on the advise of L. A. County Counsel (for public safety). The railing surrounds the Cottage porch and has been painted white to blend in with the house. Reports that a railing originally enclosed the porch are not true -- the only photographs that show a railing are from the 1940's when movie studios used the property.
- g. Two reproduction Wilton carpets of Victorian pattern were ordered from Scalamandre Co. in New York to replace the worn carpeting in the Parlor and Music Room of the Cottage. A 5-color pattern of the period was selected by the Assoc. Curator with advise from Las Voluntarias President Carol Overturf and colors were chosen to blend with the existing wall colors and furnishings in the rooms. The carpets were ordered in October and delivered in March, 1983. Cost was \$3,000.00 each. Paid for by Calif. Arboretum Found. Historical Section funds.
- h. New palms were selected from the Arboretum nursery for use in the Cottage. It is recommended that palms and other plants be used extensively throughout the Cottage to lend authenticity and warmth.
- i. Bees were again found near the tower exterior with dead bees falling into the tower interior steps. The probably hives were sprayed by Rito Cervantes, but the bees are still there.
- j. The top hatch tower door and the first floor tower doors have been secured with bolts and hooks in an effort to thwart vandals who repeatedly climb the porch railing to reach the roof and tower at night. Spent matches and beer cans have been found inside the tower stairway.
- k. The palm tree that leaned over the Cottage roof (north side) was removed by the County tree crew in 1983.
- l. In December, 1982, a tall palm fell at the lake's shore near the Cottage and damaged a section of gingerbread trim and a gutter on the Cottage roofline (east side). County carpenters repaired the damage.

- m. April, 1983 - The Assoc. Curator, with advise from Las Voluntarias President, Carol Overturf, selected fabric from Scalamandre Co. of New York for use in the re-upholstering of the 4-piece set of parlor furniture in the Cottage. The fabric is due in July, 1983, at which time the pieces will be sent out to Chambers Upholstery of Alhambra for work. Cost of 20 yards of fabric at \$96.00 per yard was paid by Calif. Arboretum Foundation Historical Section fund.
- n. Projects remaining in the Cottage:
 - 1) The chandeliers in the parlor and in the library have rotting wire holding the crystals and prisms in place (several pieces have fallen in the past year)... A re-wiring of both chandeliers is needed.
 - 2) Several pieces of furniture are in need of expert cleaning and re-finishing of wooden parts. A bid has been received from Steve Smith to do the work in the near future.
 - 3) The exterior porch floor is wearing down to bare wood in several areas. A sanding and new coat of paint are needed as soon as possible.

2. Coach Barn:

- a. Burglar alarm system installed by Williams Alarm Co. of Arcadia in September, 1982. The system operates by a key alarm box in the custodian's room near the east door.
- b. A new roof of wood shingles (fire retardant) was installed by Virgin Roofing Co. in September, 1982. The \$12,000 cost was paid by Calif. Araboretum Foundation Special Benefactor's Fund. It was decided not to paint the roof red as it had been because the paint would interfere with the fire-retardant properties of the wood shingles.
- c. The 1885 fire cart was borrowed by Arcadia Fire Dept. in the spring, 1983, for a city display. Fire crews cleaned and re-painted the vehicle during this period.
- d. The farm wagon which sits on the wash rack in the carriage room area of the Barn was broken by a group of school children from Pasadena School District (Madison School) who apparently tried to have 23 children sit on the wagon at once for a photograph. A long support beam was shattered causing several attached cross pieces to break loose. County carpenters have been notified, but no action has as yet been taken (accident happened June, 1983).
- e. Several evidences of continued termite infestation have been noted in the Barn -- droppings have been found under the stairway, near the Tally Ho and in the Blacksmith Shop area. In May, 1983, an entire slat of the redwood and cedarpanelling in the Barn interior was found to have been hollowed out by termites (near the west door, on the south wall). The damage was reported to County Mechanical Dept., but no response has as yet been made.
- f. Interior panelling in the Barn continues to deteriorate from sun and water damage near the doorways and from vandalism plus normal wear-and-tear in the remaining parts of the interior. Several sections show gouging, stains, and blistering varnish. A bid was received from Tony Triarsi of Anthony Decorators in spring, 1982, to spot sand and varnish all interior panelling in the Barn at a cost of \$5,600.00. No action has as yet been taken, but it is recommended that this project be undertaken in the very near future to slow further deterioration..
- g. Projects remaining in the Barn:
 - (1) The velvet lining of the Tally Ho was torn by vandals several years ago and needs repair

- (2) Several pieces of farm equipment are in poor repair and need to be worked on by someone familiar with the pieces.
- (3) Both the Blacksmith Shop and the Farm Equipment rooms of the Barn are in poor condition due to a combination of vandalism and lack of maintainence. Both areas need to be re-organized to better display pieces; items needing repair should be made functional; and informative labels or signs need to be added.

3. Dog House:

In the fall, 1982, County employees (Arboretum Shop) re-roofed the dog house in front of the Barn with wood shingle-like pieces.

4. Hugo Reid Adobe:

- a. Burglar alarm system installed by Williams Alarm Co. of Arcadia in September, 1982. The system operates by a key alarm box in the kitchen (north wall).
- b. In the winter, 1983, a large section of the Adobe patio wall (northwest corner area) collapsed after heavy rains. Careful inspection revealed many other areas, both in patio walls and in the adobe house itself, that were in poor condition with cracks and holes evident. County Mechanical Dept. personnel recommended outside professional help; the best they could do would be to patch with cement, a method not appropriate in historic preservation. Asst. Director, Roy Ito, contacted representatives of Old Town Historic Park in San Diego (a State restoration project involving several adobe houses) who visited the Arboretum one day for consultation. The recommendation of these experts was that the patio wall and house walls be patched where possible and rebuilt where necessary with a slurry mixture of adobe soil (5 parts), plaster (1 part) and water such as that used in their restoration projects. The primary cost in such a preservation project would be labor. That problem was solved by Roy Ito, who secured the services of the California Conservation Corps to take on the job. It was decided, upon the recommendation of San Diego, to construct French drains around the patio walls prior to restoration to help keep water out of the walls in the future. This undertaking was begun by the CCC in June, 1983, to be followed by work on the patio walls, house walls, the stove, oven, and tallow pot support pieces.
- c. Also during the winter of 1983, during the rainy season, it was discovered that the entry doorway of the Adobe had undergone apparent ground movement or settling such as that previously discovered under tables and chests throughout the house. The San Diego experts felt that short of relocating the house, it was best to let the structure shift with the ground. To stabilize the earth with cement may cause stress to shift to support pieces. It is probable that it is a combination of the fill dirt in the area with earthquake-related ground movement that is causing the problem. The doorway remains a problem that must be solved, however, because swelling of the threshold causes the door to jam when trying to enter the house. It is proposed that the Arboretum Shop rebuild the threshold interior and either plane the existing door or make a new one to fit the opening. It is also possible that the interior threshold could be rebuilt by the CCC.
- d. Minor roof leaks continue in the Adobe during heavy rains. New roofing will soon be necessary.
- e. A bid has been received for repair of the rain-damaged secretary in the Sala of the Adobe (Steve Smith - \$125.00).

5. Wickiups:

Only two of the original four wickiups remain and those two are in extremely poor condition. It has been proposed that the California Conservation Corps undertake the renovation of the wickiups after completion of their work at the Hugo Reid Adobe and the proposal has been approved by the State. It is recommended that the CCC remove the cement domes that were mistakenly applied to the wickiups by County Mechanical Dept. several years ago and re-thatch both existing metal frameworks with cut tule reeds from the Arboretum upper lake. It is additionally recommended that the CCC construct an authentic willow pole framework only adjacent to the two metal-framed wickiups to provide the public (and especially school children) with a more authentic demonstration of Indian life style.

6. Santa Anita Depot:

- a. Burglar alarm system installed by Williams Alarm Co. of Arcadia in September. The system operates by a key alarm box located in the closet in the kitchen.
- b. Roof shingles had be be patched again this rainy season, but holes are again visible above the Baggage Room.
- c. The outdoor waiting bench is reported by the Arboretum Shop to be beyond repair. A replacement is needed.
- d. In late June, 1983, the water heater in the bathroom became so badly corroded that it broke through and flooded the Depot downstairs interior over the course of an unattended weekend. Damage to the painted cement floors in all downstairs rooms was extensive, with large sections of paint simply peeling away to reveal multiple layers of old paint and paint blotches underneath. A leather hat box, some leather suitcases, and several misc. paper goods were water damaged beyond repair. County plumbers (who had on at least 2 previous occasions "repaired" the leaking heater) finally disconnected it altogether to avoid a repetition of the catastrophe. The floor remains unsightly; it is recommended that it either be stripped and the concrete sealed or the entire floor repainted in the near future.
- e. The interior of the Depot is in need of re-painting throughout; it has been 13 years since its restoration painting. A bid of \$4,000.00 was received from Tony Triarsi of Anthony Decorators to repaint both upstairs and downstairs interiors of the Depot. It is recommended that theis project be undertaken this fall.

Special Activities:

1. Burglar Alarm systems installed: As mentioned in the report on the condition of the historic buildings, a alarm system was installed in each of the four buildings in August and September, 1982, by Williams Alarm of Arcadia (alarm systems were also installed in the Arboretum Library and Gift Shop). The alarms are activated and de-activated by key only. Violation of the security causes a continuous 5-minute siren to sound at the violated building, after which the alarm automatically re-sets itself.
2. Field Leader Training: A six-week session in California History was conducted for 12 prospective History and Nature field leaders from late September through mid-November. Of this group, 5 new History leaders were added to the rolls.
3. Volunteer Preservation committee: Since its establishment in January, 1982, this group of 8-12 volunteers had met every third Monday of the month to take on a specific cleaning and/or preservation project. To date, jobs have included cleaning and oiling leather goods, cleaning and polishing the Depot, cleaning the Adobe, etc.
4. Christmas Open House: The Queen Anne Cottage, sporting its new interior paint job, was decorated for Christmas with trees in every room and handmade fresh green wreaths and garlands throughout the house. As a fund-raising project, the Cottage was opened the weekend of Dec. 10-12, 1982 for interior tours. On Friday night, Dec. 10, a Preview party for Calif. Arboretum Foundation members and guests was held in the Lecture Hall with tram tours to the Cottage. On Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Cottage was opened to the general public for touring with volunteer docents in attendance. Some 3,000 people visited the Cottage over the weekend. Over \$5,000.00 was raised for historic preservation projects of the future.
5. Lecture/slide talks: The Assoc. Curator spoke to the Altadena Historical Society the evening of October 25, 1982, and to the Los Angeles Transportation Club on March 15, 1983 - the topic of both talks was Lucky Baldwin and his Ranch.
6. Historic preservation funds: In addition to expenditure of preservation monies, as listed, for the interior painting of the Queen Anne Cottage, new carpets for the Cottage, and upholstery fabric for the Cottage, the following was purchased: cleaning supplies for preservation committee, brass tie-backs for Cottage drapes, new mannikin for Cottage.
7. Santa Anita Depot: With the help of 12 regular and 10 as-needed docents, the Depot has been opened for guided public tours each Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Total Depot attendance for the past fiscal year was 5,738.
Assoc. Curator prepared a 10-page study guide for Depot docents this past year to aid in training.
8. Research: The Assoc. Curator has emphasized two new research activities this past fiscal year --
 - a. Compilation of complete list of all movie/TV locations utilizing the Arboretum grounds, 1937 to present. Old Calif. Arboretum Foundation records are being reviewed and other resources checked to obtain data. An effort is being made to secure photographs to illustrate the list of movies and television series.
In conjunction with these efforts, we are attempting to secure photographs of all locations currently being shot on the grounds. It is hoped that a brochure for public sale will soon be available highlighting the Arboretum's role in the movies.

- b. Preparation of a complete chronology of Arboretum development from purchase of the property in 1947 through the present. Again, old C.A.F. records (minutes of meetings, annual reports, newspaper clips, etc.) are being reviewed for information and photographs of pertinent developments are being accessioned into the Historical Section photograph file.

Acquisitions:

Fifty-five individual items from nineteen different donors were accepted by the Historical Section during the past fiscal year. Included were books, Indian baskets, an 1890 accordion, a brass lamp, a globe, an 1876 framed lithograph by Louis Prang, a tapestry, a boxed ostrich plume fan from Cawston Ostrich Farm of South Pasadena, a paisley shawl (1790), clothing including baby outfits, petticoats, and a silk wedding dress of 1885.

Special Historical Section purchases were as follows:

- a. Three Baldwin sherry bottles were purchased with History fund (CAF) money for \$150.00
- b. Two pine kitchen chairs were purchased with donated money for use in the Santa Anita Depot parlor. The chairs were re-finished by Steve Smith.
- c. An H. H. Cross oil painting on cloth of an Indian attack on the Lucky Baldwin wagon train, circa 1890, was purchased for \$700.00 with monies solicited directly from members of Las Voluntarias (at a General Meeting).

Volunteer Hours and Activities:

Through the past fiscal year, History volunteers donated over 2,700 hours of time. Activities ranged from service as Depot tour guides to cleaning projects, research and clerical jobs, special events, and flower arranging in the Queen Anne Cottage.

Those docents working on special projects in addition to other duties are:

Marilyn Llewellyn - History Chairman; Preservation Committee chairman
Julie Smith - Depot scheduling; History co-chairman
Mary Atkinson - description and accessioning of photograph collection
Margaret Dean - description and accessioning of slide collection
Jean Atkinson - care and cataloging of historic clothing collection
Marilynn Bochte - inventory of all accessioned items in Historical Section
Mary Hager - inventory of accessioned items in Historical Section; cataloging of Anita Baldwin collection.
Peg Dorr - typing of file cards for magazine collection; typing of curator's research notes
Irene Adams - transcription of photograph master file cards
Gerd Fleming - flower arranging
Ruth Griefe - flower arranging
Adeline McElroy - flower arranging
Jean Crum - flower arranging

Ongoing Activities:

1. Arboretum scrapbooks (news clippings): Scrapbooks of news clippings dating from 1967 to present have been given to the Historical Section for preservation and organization. All scrapbooks need to be re-organized, loose clips re-glued. It is hoped to create a subject file for these news clippings in the near future.

2. Photograph collection: We have re-numbered and fully described 2,950 photographs in the collection. Cataloging by subject (cross-referenced) has been completed for 1,100 photographs to date. Important photographs without negatives are being re-photographed by the Assoc. Curator for security. Numerous additions, both through donation and by copying photos owned by other facilities, have again been made to the collection this past fiscal year. New photographs are constantly being transferred from the Education Dept. files for permanent cataloging and preservation.
3. Slide collection: We have re-numbered and fully described some 2,300 slides in our collection and cataloging by subject has begun. All important slides, especially those used in talks, are being duplicated as time and money permit. It has not been determined yet whetherto file frequently used slides by subject or by number.
4. Anita Baldwin collection: Letters, clippings, documents, photos, etc. have been arranged by subject matter and a subject is being developed.
5. Magazine file: Pertinent articles continue to be referenced by subject on index cards, though not as extensively as in past years.
6. Decorative arts file: Information, descriptions, historical background of various antiques are being collected in a vertical file for reference use.
7. Baldwin Ranch file: Extensive research notes are arranged by topic and stored in Hollinger boxes in the Assoc. Curator's office. Notes in longhand are typed by volunteers and duplicated for inclusion in the file.
8. Historic clothing collection: All clothing is in storage in the Coach Barn loft in metal cabinets. Clothing is being sorted by date and work continues in matching existing accession cards and descriptions with items on hand. A separate accessioning system for clothing is being set up for greater ease in information retrieval. Clothing is used primarily on mannikins in the Queen Anne Cottage, but is also on display in the Depot bedroom. Items of clothing are modeled by volunteers on special occasions (i.e., Christmas Open House, Queen Anne Frolic).
9. Accessioning of artifacts: Each of the historic buildings has been inventoried to ascertain which artifacts remain of those represented on accession cards of past years. Missing items are being reconciled with missing cards as all donations are checked against master accession books. New acquisitions are continuously added to the books and files.
10. Movie location file: See notes under "Special Activities"
11. Arboretum chronology file: See notes under "Special Activities."
12. Rotunda displays: As requested by the Education Dept., displays are set up in the north Rotunda display case. Topics have included movie locations, school field leader thank-you letters, Arboretum chronology. Additional, semi-permanent photographic displays are set up in the Coach Barn.
13. Public information: Various requests for historical information are regularly answered via mail and/or telephone.
14. Building maintenance: The historical buildings are inspected by the Assoc. Curator once a week or as needed. Problems are noted and forwarded to the appropriate supervisor for action. Light bulbs are changed in the Queen Anne Cottage by the Assoc. Curator (chandeliers) and, as requested, by the Shop (spotlights).

Proposed Projects:

1. Create slide/tape programs for use by volunteers to give to interested civic groups.
2. Photograph all accessioned items of value to facilitate record keeping.

JULY 1, 1982 - JUNE 30, 1983
GROUPS

FREE

PAID

| DATE | ADULTS | STUDENTS | TOTAL | #/GROUPS | ADULTS | STUDENTS | TOTAL | #/GROUPS |
|---------|--------|----------|-------|----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|
| JULY 82 | 308 | 773 | 1081 | 40 | 464 | 1739 | 2203 | 77 |
| AUG 82 | 144 | 506 | 650 | 26 | 322 | 994 | 1316 | 46 |
| SEPT 82 | 92 | 132 | 224 | 14 | 134 | 123 | 257 | 11 |
| OCT 82 | 268 | 1123 | 1391 | 41 | 292 | 364 | 656 | 27 |
| NOV 82 | 285 | 788 | 1073 | 40 | 134 | 402 | 536 | 28 |
| DEC 82 | 67 | 198 | 265 | 12 | 77 | 307 | 384 | 16 |
| JAN 83 | 78 | 165 | 243 | 10 | 114 | 331 | 445 | 13 |
| FEB 83 | 173 | 103 | 276 | 11 | 54 | 322 | 376 | 13 |
| MAR 83 | 325 | 876 | 1201 | 37 | 131 | 741 | 872 | 30 |
| APR 83 | 411 | 585 | 996 | 39 | 270 | 1246 | 1516 | 42 |
| MAY 83 | 640 | 1343 | 1983 | 57 | 826 | 4325 | 5151 | 118 |
| JUNE 83 | 440 | 1300 | 1740 | 49 | 596 | 2916 | 3512 | 100 |
| TOTALS: | 323 | 7892 | 11123 | 376 | 3414 | 13810 | 17224 | 523 |

Grades 1-12